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1957

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the

***Dartmouth and Totnes  
Port Health Authority***



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Chronicle (*Printers*), Dartmouth



*1957*

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

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## **MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH**

for the

*Dartmouth and Totnes  
Port Health Authority*

# MEMBERS OF THE DARTMOUTH AND TOTNES PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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## REPRESENTATIVES FROM DARTMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Alderman H. Wheatley (Chairman).

Alderman B. Lavers.

Councillor H. J. Adams.

Councillor E. W. Hayhoe.

Councillor A. M. W. Chapman.

## REPRESENTATIVES FROM TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor C. Gill, Dittisham.

Councillor S. Scadding, Stoke Gabriel

Councillor Mrs. E. Melville, J.P., Kingswear

Councillor Miss M. E. Tozer, Cornworthy

## REPRESENTATIVE FROM TOTNES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Alderman C. Jacka.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the  
Dartmouth and Totnes Port Health Authority  
For the year ending December 31st, 1957**

*To the Chairman and Members*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with my statutory duties I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1957.

There has been no change in the Port Health District of Dartmouth and Totnes as constituted in the year 1888 by a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board.

SECTION I.—Staff—No change.

SECTION II.

**Amount of Shipping entering the District  
during the year 1957.**

TABLE B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
For'gn P'ts	250	8782	10	250	Nil
Coastwise	86	10491	10	86	Nil
Total	336	19273	20	336	Nil

### SECTION III.

#### Character of shipping and tonnage during the year 1956

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic	{	Number of Passengers INWARDS—Nil
		Number of „ OUTWARDS—Nil
Cargo Traffic	{	Principal IMPORTS—Coal, Timber, Cement
		Principal EXPORTS—Nil

PRINCIPAL PORTS from which Ships arrive.—Goole,  
Blyth, London, Baltic Ports

Ships proceeding up river to Totnes.	Total 26
Cement	12
Timber	14

Shipping entering the port has shown a decrease in tonnage compared with 1956. Foreign shipping by 4,556 tons, coastwise by 12,369 tons. This decrease is in part accounted for by the fact that in 1956 the port was the rendezvous for the International Sailing Race—but the total tonnage still shows a decrease compared to 1955 of 4,533 tons.

#### SECTION IV.—Inland Barge Traffic NIL

#### SECTION V.—Water Supply—No change.

Samples tested in January were satisfactory.

#### SECTION VI.—

##### Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952— No change

#### SECTION VII.—Smallpox

(1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent in the district:

County Smallpox Hospital, Upton Pines, Exeter.

(2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to the Hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Ambulance is provided from the County Smallpox Hospital on application to the Resident Medical Officer. The Exeter Special Hospital Management Committee are responsible for the ambulance and the ambulance crews are vaccinated yearly.

(3) Names of Smallpox consultants available:

Dr. J. Macrae, of Ham Green Hospital, Bristol.  
(available for the whole area).

Dr. W. A. Lister, of Plymouth.

Dr. D. F. Johnstone, of Plymouth.

(4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox:

The Virus reference Laboratory, Colindale, London N.W.4, or through the Public Health Laboratory at 7, Dix'-Field, Exeter.

SECTION VIII.—Venereal Disease—No change.

SECTION IX.

# **Cases of Notifiable and Other Infectious Disease on Ships**

TABLE D

Category	Disease	No. of cases during year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases from ships from foreign ports	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases from other ships	—	—	—	—



SECTION X.—

**Observation on the Occurrence of Malaria in Ships**  
NIL

SECTION XI.—

**Measures taken against ships infested with, or suspected for, Plague**  
NIL

SECTION XII.—

**Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports**

1.—Procedure for inspection of ships in Port:

Routine inspection of ships entering Port by Port Sanitary Inspector.

2.—Arrangements for bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague is carried out by Public Health Laboratory at Exeter.

Number of rodents sent for examination during the year.—NIL.

3.—There are no arrangements in the District for de-ratting ships.

4.—Procedure in the rat-proofing of ships.—NIL.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

Category	Number
Black Rats ... ..	Nil
Brown Rats ... ..	Nil
Species not known ...	Nil
Sent for examination ...	Nil
Infected with plague ...	Nil



TABLE F

De-ratting Certificates and De-ratting Exemption Certificates  
issued during the year for ships from foreign ports

No. of De-ratting Certificates issued					Number of De-rat'g ex'mption c'rtific's issued	Total C'rt'fi- cates Issued
After fumigation with		After rapp'g	After pois'n'g	Total		
HCN	Other fumigant (state method)					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION XIII.—Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices Served		Result of serv- ing notice
		Stat'y notices	Inf'mal notices	
General examination of crews' quarters, heads, water supply, store rooms, holds and bilges	336	Nil	2	Notices complied with and carried out satisfactorily
Total ... ..	336	Nil	2	

SECTION XIV.—Public Health (Shell - Fish) Regulations  
1934 and 1948—No change.

SECTION XV.—Medical Inspection of Aliens—No change.

## SECTION XVI.—Miscellaneous

There has been no change in the arrangements for burial of infectious cases or the disposal of Smallpox cases.

During 1957 the following patients were treated by me .

1. At the Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital—

One case of cerebral haemorrhage.

One case of coronary thrombosis.

(Both of which were fatal).

One case of acute appendicitis. Successfully treated.

One case of acute tracheo bronchitis.

(Transported to Torbay Isolation Hospital).

2. At Surgery or at Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital as outpatients—

3 cases of Asian Influenza.

6 cases of lacerations.

11 Minor injuries.

10 Upper respiratory tract infections.

1 case of Hypertension.

1 case of sprain.

1 case of hernia.

1 case psychological disorder.

3. There were no cases of Infectious disease or V.D.

All Foreshores, Quays and Jetties have been inspected and found satisfactory.

The proposed sewage scheme for Stoke Gabriel has been inspected and approved by the authority.

The new sewage system for Ashprington was inspected and declared satisfactory. All sewer outfalls are satisfactory excepting three at Dartmouth which are still defective.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. D. VERNIQUET, M.B., Ch.B.,

*Port Medical Officer of Health*



